

## Welcome to the local board of health!

As a volunteer you have been entrusted with many responsibilities and the opportunity to affect the health of those your board serves. This guidebook is meant to assist you in carrying out your duties as a local board of health member.

Public health is a constantly changing field. It must change to address the needs of the population. Public health isn't about any one individual, or any one health problem. Public health has a broader focus.

For example, public health

- provides protection from disease by assuring that Iowans receive their vaccinations;
- prevents environmental illnesses by assuring that laws are enforced to make sure Iowans have safe water to drink and safe food to eat:
- works to make sure that children have access to dental services;
- brings members of a community together to determine health priorities and to make plans to address those needs.

You aren't in this alone. As a local board of health member you will be supported by a variety of local health partners and the Iowa Department of Public Health. The Iowa Department of Public Health is prepared to offer you technical assistance in a number of areas, including but not limited to your role as a local board of health member. Thank you so much for the work you will do on behalf of Iowans.